

MARVEL
COMICS

JULY
#436

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BY THE
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W
AUTHORITY

THE AMAZING

SPIDER-MAN

MY ENEMIES -
UNMASKED!

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DEFALCO

BENNETT

LAROSA

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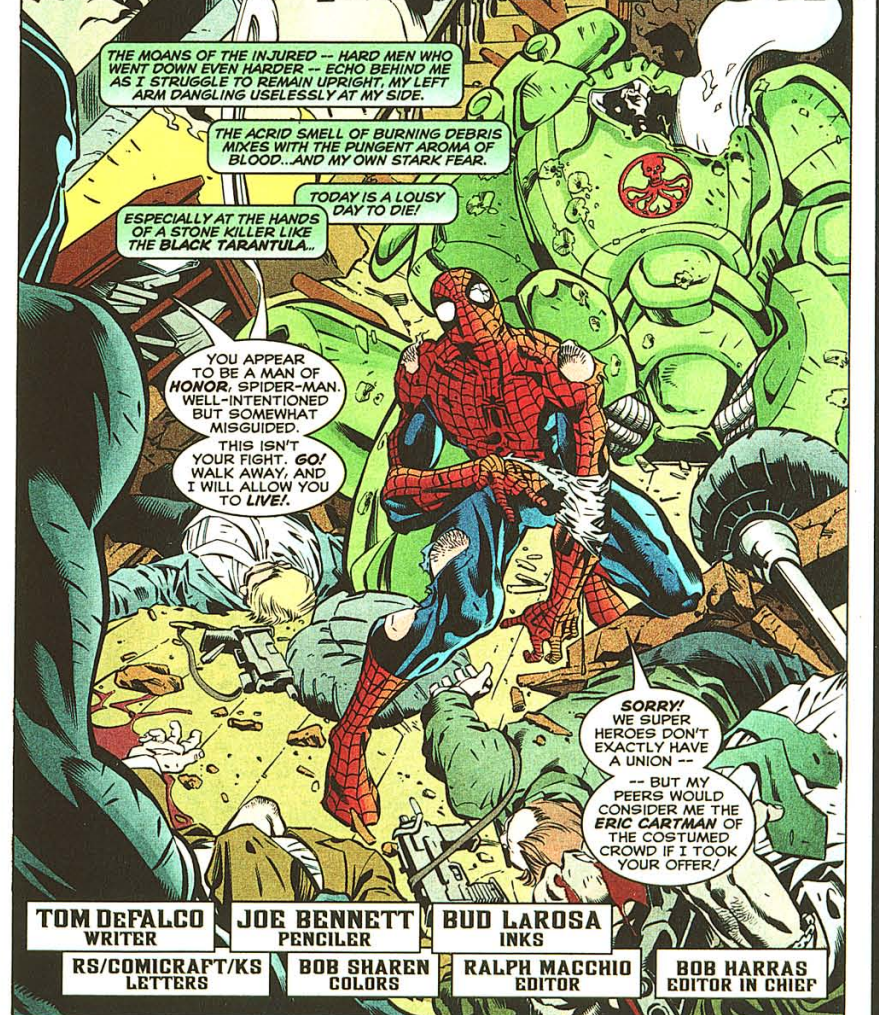
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IN FINAL BATTLE WITH THE BLACK TARANTULA!



THE MOANS OF THE INJURED -- HARD MEN WHO WENT DOWN EVEN HARDER -- ECHO BEHIND ME AS I STRUGGLE TO REMAIN UPRIGHT, MY LEFT ARM DANGLING USELESSLY AT MY SIDE.

THE ACRID SMELL OF BURNING DEBRIS MIXES WITH THE PUNGENT AROMA OF BLOOD...AND MY OWN STARK FEAR.

TODAY IS A LOUSY DAY TO DIE!

ESPECIALLY AT THE HANDS OF A STONE KILLER LIKE THE BLACK TARANTULA.

YOU APPEAR TO BE A MAN OF HONOR, SPIDER-MAN. WELL-INTENTIONED BUT SOMEWHAT MISGUIDED.

THIS ISN'T YOUR FIGHT. GO! WALK AWAY, AND I WILL ALLOW YOU TO LIVE!

SORRY! WE SUPER HEROES DON'T EXACTLY HAVE A UNION --

-- BUT MY PEERS WOULD CONSIDER ME THE ERIC CARTMAN OF THE COSTUMED CROWD IF I TOOK YOUR OFFER!

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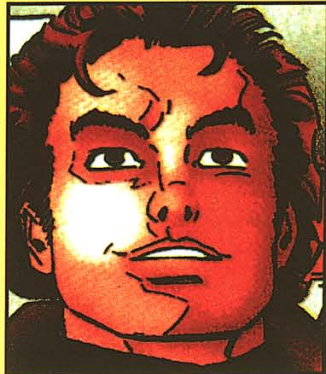
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HEY, IT'S
THE EVER-
AMAZING

SPIDER-MAN!

A true hero at heart, Spider-Man has dedicated his life to preventing injustices against the innocent.



Met Peter Parker, once a brilliant, though meek, high school student, orphaned as a child and reared by his doting Uncle Ben and Aunt May. At a science fair, Peter was bitten by an irradiated spider and gained the proportionate strength, speed, agility and early warning "spider-sense" of that arachnid. He used these powers for personal fame and fortune as a masked Spider-Man. But when Peter failed to stop a criminal who later killed his beloved Uncle Ben, the youth's costumed identity took on a far deeper significance. He realized that with great power there must also come great responsibility. So Peter Parker became the wall-crawling nemesis of the criminal element; a young man determined to atone for the tragic death of his uncle — The Amazing Spider-Man!

BLACK TARANTULA

A shadowy South American crime-lord who has apparently lived for centuries. The Tarantula has come to New York to personally try and take control of the city's criminal element.



THE ROSE

A criminal mastermind whose face is hidden behind a mask, thus, his identity is a secret from all. The Rose's chief goal is the consolidation of New York's underworld behind him and the elimination of Spider-Man as a threat to his power.



DON FORTUNATO

Backed by the ultra-high tech weaponry of the terrorist organization Hydra, Fortunato was recently able to establish himself as New York's supreme gang-lord. He has been powerful enough to keep most of the city's organized criminals in line, effectively filling the power vacuum left by the Kingpin.



CHESBRO

The Black Tarantula's chief lackey.



MARY JANE WATSON-PARKER

The wife of Peter Parker/Spider-Man, and his closest confidant. She has currently returned to Empire State University as a student majoring in psychology.



PREVIOUSLY IN

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

Top ganglord Don Fortunato, gave the Black Tarantula permission to operate in the New York vicinity. With this approval, the Tarantula put a daring plan into operation.



Meanwhile, in several of his alternate identities, including the rollicking Ricochet, Peter Parker battled Roughhouse and Bloodscream, who he learned were hired by the Black Tarantula...



...hired to kidnap several women, including Peter's wife, Mary Jane, her friend, Shantel and the Tarantula's ex-wife, Marina.



Now, having abandoned his alternate guises, because he's been cleared of the murder charge hanging over him, Peter Parker is back in the webs. And he and the Black Tarantula square off in Fortunato's Staten Island estate for all the marbles...

Design by COMICRAFT's John Marasigan



FOR A SEEMINGLY ETERNAL MOMENT, THE TARANTULA STANDS PERFECTLY STILL, HIS EYES WIDENING IN... ANNOYANCE? BAFFLEMENT? TERROR?

I MAY NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND YOUR INANE PRATTLING, BUT I DO KNOW THAT YOUR LIFE IS MINE TO TAKE!

Uhhh... SCRATCH TERROR!

PLEASE DO NOT FORCE ME TO KILL YOU!

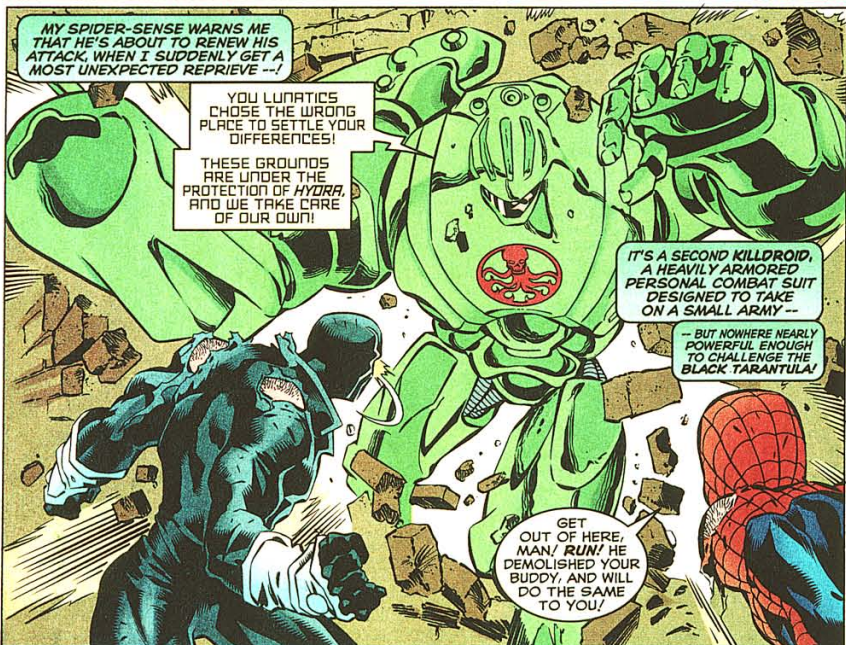


HEY! FINE BY ME! HOW'S ABOUT WE ORDER IN A PIZZA, AND DISCUSS OUR FAVORITE SCENES FROM TITANIC!

I WISH YOU WOULD TAKE MY THREATS SERIOUSLY

THOSE FOR WHOM YOU RISK YOURSELF ARE UNWORTHY OF SUCH SACRIFICE.

AND THEY SPEAK SOOO HIGHLY OF YOU!



MY SPIDER-SENSE WARNS ME THAT HE'S ABOUT TO RENEW HIS ATTACK, WHEN I SUDDENLY GET A MOST UNEXPECTED REPRIEVE --!

YOU LUNATICS CHOSE THE WRONG PLACE TO SETTLE YOUR DIFFERENCES!

THESE GROUNDS ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF HYDRA, AND WE TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN!

IT'S A SECOND KILLDROID, A HEAVILY ARMORED PERSONAL COMBAT SUIT DESIGNED TO TAKE ON A SMALL ARMY --

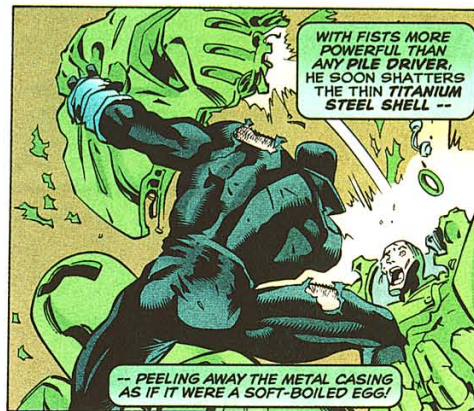
-- BUT NOWHERE NEARLY POWERFUL ENOUGH TO CHALLENGE THE BLACK TARANTULA!

GET OUT OF HERE, MAN! RUN! HE DEMOLISHED YOUR BUDDY, AND WILL DO THE SAME TO YOU!



THE KILLDROID LAUGHS AT MY WARNING --

-- BUT HIS MERRIMENT DIES AS SOON AS THE TARANTULA BEGINS SHOWERING HIM WITH HIGH-IMPACT BLOWS!



WITH FISTS MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY PILE DRIVER, HE SOON SHATTERS THE THIN TITANIUM STEEL SHELL --

-- PEELING AWAY THE METAL CASING AS IF IT WERE A SOFT-BOILED EGG!



THOUGH THE KILLDROID'S OPERATOR WOULD HAVE SURELY BLOWN ME AWAY WITHOUT A SECOND'S HESITATION --

-- I INSTINCTIVELY WANT TO SPRING TO HIS AID!



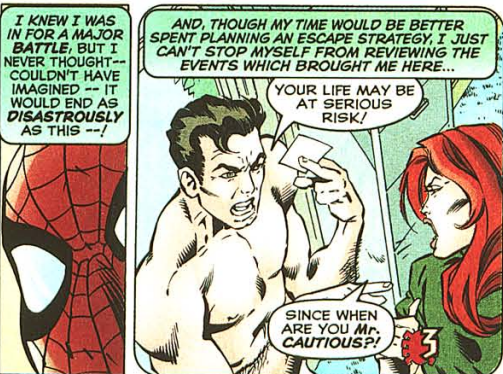
UNFORTUNATELY, IN MY PRESENT CONDITION, I CAN HARDLY STAND --

-- MUCH LESS DO ANY SPRINGING --



-- SO HE HAS TO SETTLE FOR A WAD OF WEBBING --

-- WHICH BARELY MANAGES TO CUSHION HIS IMPACT!



I KNEW I WAS IN FOR A MAJOR BATTLE, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT-- COULDN'T HAVE IMAGINED -- IT WOULD END AS DISASTROUSLY AS THIS --!

AND, THOUGH MY TIME WOULD BE BETTER SPENT PLANNING AN ESCAPE STRATEGY, I JUST CAN'T STOP MYSELF FROM REVIEWING THE EVENTS WHICH BROUGHT ME HERE...

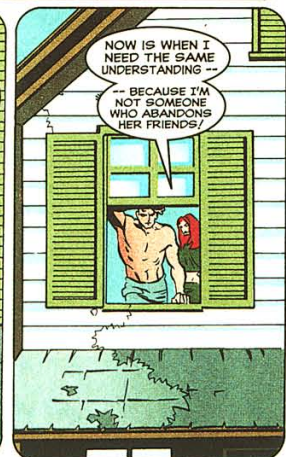
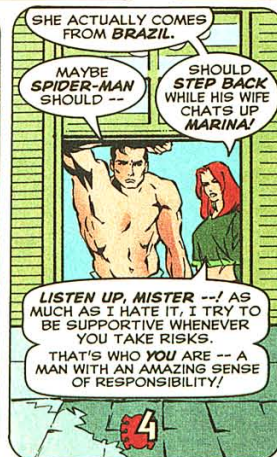
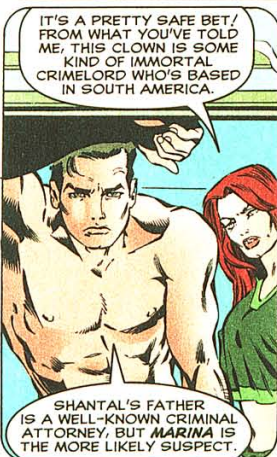
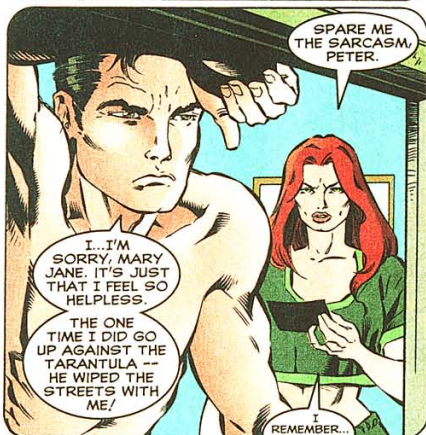
YOUR LIFE MAY BE AT SERIOUS RISK!

SINCE WHEN ARE YOU MR. CAUTIOUS?!

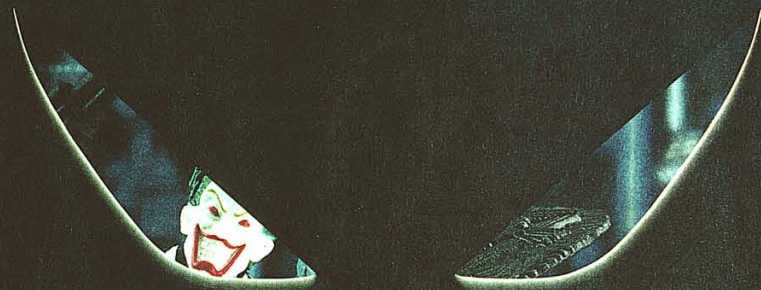


I KNOW I'M IN DANGER! IT'S BEEN THE STATUS QUO AROUND HERE EVER SINCE NORMAN OSBORN CAME BACK ON THE SCENE!

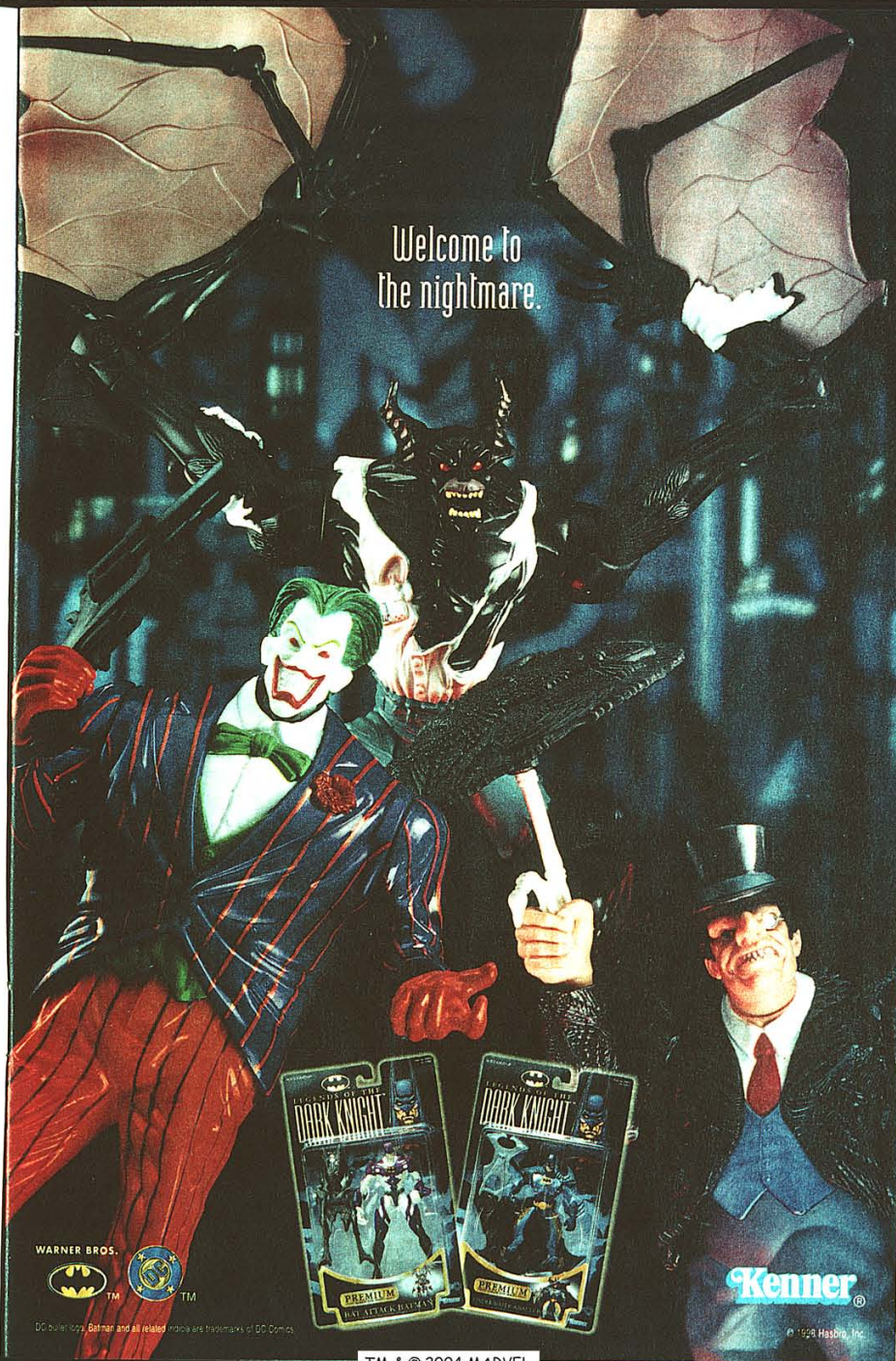
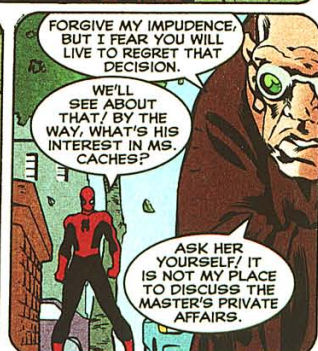
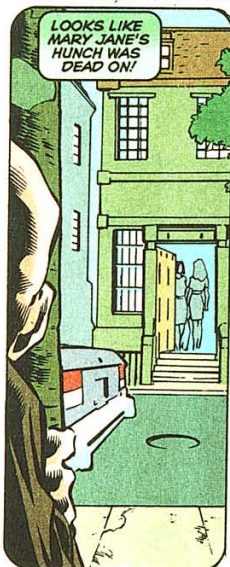
YOU CAN'T BUNDLE ME OFF TO MY SISTER IN PITTSBURGH BECAUSE YOU SUDDENLY GOT A HINT OF A NEW PERIL!



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STOP FIDGETING FABIAN! MOMMY'S TALKING TO HER FRIEND.

I ASSUME THIS IS IMPORTANT, MARY JANE...

AS YOU KNOW MY HUSBAND WORKS FOR THE DAILY BUGLE...



HE FOUND THAT PICTURE AT A CRIME SCENE.

C-CRIME SCENE --P? Oh, GOD!

MARINA, I HAVE TO ASK IF YOU'VE EVER HEARD OF ANYONE CALLED THE BLACK TARANTULA.

Y-YES...



I USED TO BE MARRIED TO HIM!

WHAT-??



"WHAT CAN I SAY, MARY JANE? LOVE HAS BEEN KNOWN TO MAKE FOOLS OF US ALL.

"I FIRST MET CARLOS LOMUERTO WHILE I WAS ATTENDING GRADUATE SCHOOL IN THIS VERY COUNTRY.

"HE WAS ATTACHED TO THE ARGENTINEAN DIPLOMATIC MISSION!



"CARLOS WAS SO HANDSOME! SO CHARMING!

"HE TOLD ME HIS FAMILY WAS INVOLVED IN... THE SERVICE INDUSTRIES, I BELIEVE WAS HIS TERM FOR IT!



WE HAD BEEN MARRIED FOR ALMOST A YEAR, AND I WAS ALREADY PREGNANT WITH FABIAN, WHEN I FIRST LEARNED THE TRUTH...

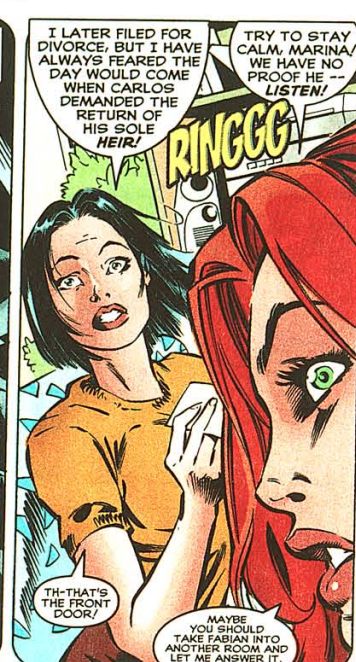
"THE SERVICES HIS FAMILY PROVIDED WERE THEFT, EXTORTION AND MURDER!"



"LIKE HIS FATHER, GRANDFATHER -- AND EVERY FIRST BORN DOWN TO SOME UNNAMED ANCESTOR -- MY CARLOS HAD TAKEN UP THE MANTLE OF THE BLACK TARANTULA!

"REALIZING THAT HE EXPECTED OUR SON TO FOLLOW THIS GRIM FAMILY TRADITION, I BID MY TIME --

"-- EVENTUALLY ESCAPING HIS FAMILY COMPOUND AND FLEEING BACK TO THE UNITED STATES!



I LATER FILED FOR DIVORCE, BUT I HAVE ALWAYS FEARED THE DAY WOULD COME WHEN CARLOS DEMANDED THE RETURN OF HIS SOLE HEIR!

TRY TO STAY CALM, MARINA! WE HAVE NO PROOF HE -- LISTEN!

RINGGGG

TH-THAT'S THE FRONT DOOR!

MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE FABIAN INTO ANOTHER ROOM AND LET ME ANSWER IT!



NO! IF IT'S CARLOS, IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO --

WHOA! SLOW DOWN, MARINA! IT'S ONLY ME.

D-DANTE --P?



DANTE, I... I WISH THERE WAS A BETTER WAY... TO BREAK THIS TO YOU...

B-BUT I THINK CARLOS IS NEAR!

TAKE IT EASY, HONEY! I ALWAYS ASSUMED HE'D BE BACK!

GRAB THE KID! I WON'T LET THAT FOUL-TEMPERED MANIAC NEAR YOU OR YOUR SON!



COME ON! MY GODFATHER HAS AN ESTATE ON STATEN ISLAND WITH TONS OF SECURITY!

WE'LL BE SAFE THERE!

TH-THANKS FOR THE WARNING, MARY JANE!

I... I'LL CALL YOU WHEN THINGS SETTLE DOWN!



THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY.

I'M COMING!

I... I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO PUT YOURSELF IN JEOPARDY!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, MARINA --



-- I HAVE A PERSONAL GUARDIAN ANGEL WHO PRACTICALLY GUARANTEES MY SAFETY!

ARRRGH!

I WISH SHE'D JUST GO HOME... AND LEAVE THE HERO STUFF TO ME!



THIS MAY BE A GRAND ADVENTURE TO MARY JANE --

-- BUT I DON'T RELISH THE PROSPECT OF ANOTHER POUNDING AT THE HANDS OF THE BLACK TARANTULA!

SURE I'VE FOUGHT OTHER JOKERS WHO WERE FAR STRONGER AND MORE POWERFUL THAN THE T-MAN --



-- BUT MY SPIDER-LIKE SPEED AND AGILITY ALWAYS GAVE ME A SLIGHT EDGE!

UNFORTUNATELY, THE TARANTULA BEATS ME ON ALL COUNTS!

HE'S LIKE FIGHTING A SUPERCHARGED VERSION OF MYSELF!



THERE'S GOTTA BE A WAY TO BEAT HIM!

I JUST HOPE I FIND IT BEFORE HE KILLS ME!



I'M DYING, DON FORTUNATO! SHRIVELING BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES!



WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM, MY FRIEND?

TAKE A WILD GUESS!

AT YOUR REQUEST, I SURRENDERED MY HIJACKING BUSINESS TO THE BLACK TARANTULA. HOW DOES HE REPAY MY KINDNESS?

HE HIRES TWO BONE-BUSTERS TO SEND MY ASSOCIATE -- MY DEAR, SWEET DELILAH -- INTO THE HOSPITAL!



SHE'S NOW IN POLICE CUSTODY... WHERE SHE'LL SPEND THE REST OF HER LIFE IF MY STUPID LAWYER DOESN'T GET HIS ACT TOGETHER.

PLEASE CONVEY MY SYMPATHY TO THE POOR WOMAN!

THAT'S IT? YOUR... SYMPATHY?!

DO YOU SEE THE TROPHY ON THE MANTLE?



THE TARANTULA GAVE IT TO ME.

I WANT YOUR HONEST OPINION, MY FRIEND. IF YOU WERE IN MY POSITION, WOULD YOU CURRY THE FAVOR OF A MAN WHO CAN RIP THE MASK OFF SPIDER-MAN --



-- OR THAT OF AN INCOMPREHENSIVE, LOUD-MOUTHED, STRUTTING POPINJAY LIKE THE ROSE?

P-POPINJAY --?!

I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE YOUR INSULTS!



YOU MOST CERTAINLY DO, MY FRIEND! IT WAS I WHO MADE YOU! I WHO ALLOWED YOU TO ASSUME THE TERRITORY AND IDENTITY OF THE ONCE-FEARED ROSE!

P-PLEASE FORGIVE ME! I MEANT NO OFFENSE.



YOU WOULD BE NOTHING WITHOUT ME!

NOTHING.

WOLVERINE NO. **126**

BELIEVE IN THE IMPOSSIBLE

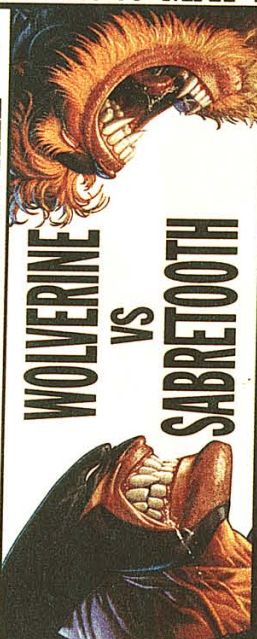
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SABRETOOTH VS. WOLVERINE
CHRIS CLAREMONT
LIENEL FRANCIS YU **MAY 27 1998**

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VS
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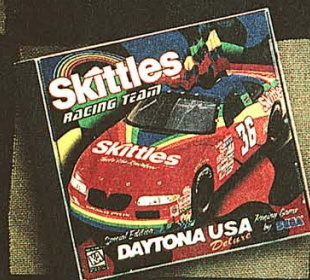
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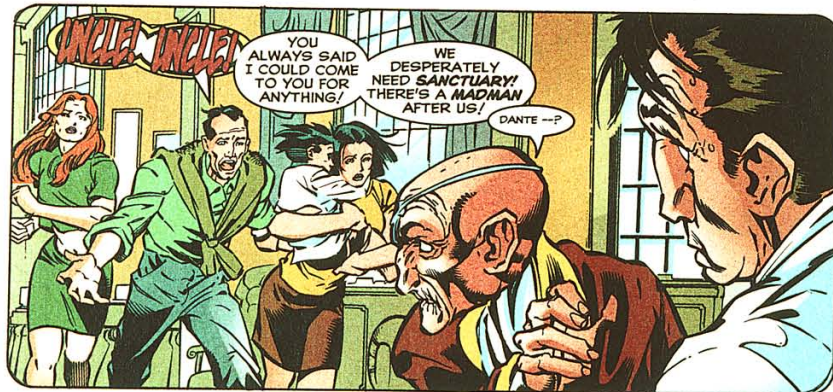
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TASTE THE RAINBOW

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OW TO START THE MOTHER OF ALL WARS

{or why deception, cruelty and betrayal are your friends}

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TRAINING AN ARMY

{or how to ensure the biggest, baddest, meanest SOBs are on your side}



In Final Fantasy Tactics, you are Ramza, a young squad leader and an ally of Princess Ovelia. It's up to you to lead an elite fighting squad of your own choosing into battle. You must train them to be powerful Black Mages who can cast magic spells, Summoners who can awaken terrible beasts,

Wizards, Ninjas, Bards, Archers, Thieves and more. There are 19 fighting classes and 400 abilities to master. If you go into battle ill-prepared, may the enemy make the blood run from your heart. 

EFFECTIVE BATTLE STRATEGIES

{or further discussions from the annals of shoot first, ask questions later}



As the ancient history of warfare reveals, you will survive if your battle strategy is strong, and perish if it is not. You will lead the charge through impressive lands trying to gain the best strategic positions in forests, castle ramparts, swamps and valleys. You can buy and sell equipment, hire new soldiers and plan glorious battle strategies. May you conquer the enemy or may you die trying. 



SQUARESOFT





I KNOW I'M GONNA REGRET THIS COME THE DAWN...

IF I SURVIVE THAT LONG!

HEY, TARANTULA! I LIKE A BIG ENTRANCE AS MUCH AS THE NEXT GUY, BUT YOURS WAS A BIT OVER THE TOP.

ME, I'M TAKING THE SUBTLE APPROACH, ENTERING WITH A FEW GRACEFUL SOMERSAULTS --



-- AND ENDING WITH A FANCY FLOURISH!

SPIDER-MAN

I SEE THAT YOU HAVE ACQUIRED A NEW MASK!

I BOUGHT IT AT COSTUMES'R'US! THEY HAD A SPECIAL SALE FOR REPEAT CUSTOMERS.

BE A PAL AND TRY TO LEAVE THIS ONE INTACT... AT LEAST UNTIL IT'S PAID OFF!



W-WHO DO WE SHOOT, THE TARANTULA... OR SPIDER-MAN?

WHY PLAY FAVORITES?

BLAST 'EM BOTH!



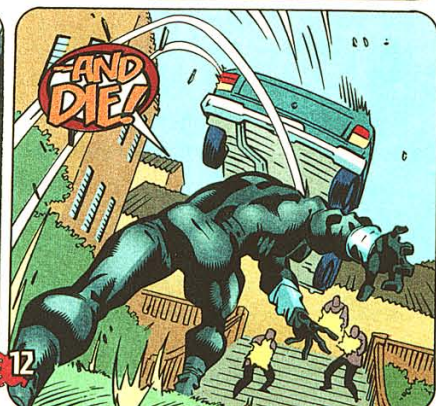
Uhhh... FELLAS?!

I KNOW YOU AREN'T EXACTLY RHODES SCHOLARS, BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE NOTICED THAT I WAS KEEPING HIM FROM TRASHING YOU!



SAVE YOUR BREATH, SPIDER-MAN! MEN SUCH AS THESE ARE NOT PAID TO THINK.

THEY MERELY FIGHT --



AND DIE!



A MAN SUCH AS YOU MAY BE TROUBLED BY SUCH PETTY THOUGHTS --

-- BUT THE BLACK TARANTULA HAS SEEN CIVILIZATIONS CRUMBLE AND ENTIRE RACES EXPIRE!

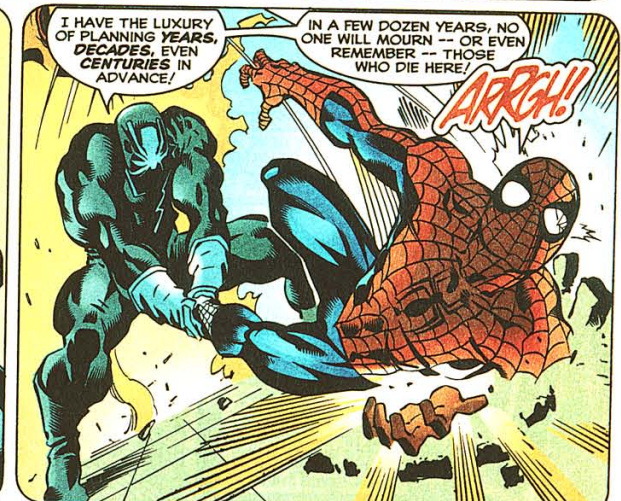


Y-YOU KILLED THOSE MEN IN COLD BLOOD --!

WHY DOES THAT SURPRISE YOU? WAS THAT NOT MY INTENTION?

D-DON'T YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'VE DONE?!

THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN HIRED MUSCLE... BUT THEY ALSO HAD FAMILIES... AND PEOPLE WHO LOVED THEM!



I HAVE THE LUXURY OF PLANNING YEARS, DECADES, EVEN CENTURIES IN ADVANCE!

IN A FEW DOZEN YEARS, NO ONE WILL MOURN -- OR EVEN REMEMBER -- THOSE WHO DIE HERE!

ARRGH!!



THINK ABOUT THAT, SPIDER-MAN...

...AS YOU DESPERATELY TRY TO SHOVE YOUR DAMAGED ARM BACK INTO ITS SOCKET!

YOU, TOO, WILL ONLY BE A DISTANT MEMORY IF YOU CONTINUE TO DEFEY ME!



I-IT SOUNDS LIKE A WAR ZONE OUT THERE, GODFATHER!

A-ARE YOU SURE YOUR SECURITY FORCES CAN PROTECT US FROM THAT MONSTER?

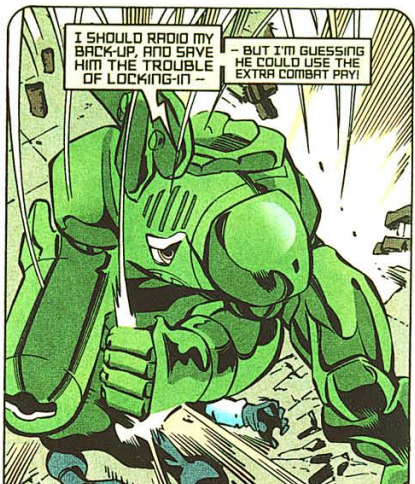
TRY TO REMAIN CALM, DANTE. OUT OF RESPECT FOR YOUR MOTHER, I HAVE ALWAYS SHIELDED YOU FROM THIS BUSINESS OF OURS... BUT I HAVE MADE DEALS WITH MANY DEVILS.

IF MY MEN FAIL TO DETER THE TARANTULA --



"-- WE CAN ALWAYS UNLEASH THE KILLDROIDS!"

I CAN'T BELIEVE THOSE SLACKERS AT THE FRONT GATE MADE ME ARMOR UP TO TAKE OUT A PATHETIC PUNK LIKE YOU!



I SHOULD RADIO MY BACK-UP, AND SAVE HIM THE TROUBLE OF LOCKING-IT --

-- BUT I'M GUESSING EXTRA COMBAT PAY!



BESIDES, I HEAR SPIDER-MAN WAS ALSO SPOTTED SOMEWHERE ON THE GROUNDS.

ALTHOUGH I DOUBT EVEN HE WILL PRESENT MUCH CHALLENGE TO THIS BABY!

STILL, I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED HOW IT WOULD FAIR AGAINST ONE OF THOSE OVER-HEATED SUPER -- HEY, MISTER! YOU STILL ALIVE DOWN THERE?



ALIVE --



-- AND PUNCHING!

PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE, MY FRIEND.

I NEEDED TO LURE YOU INTO A SPECIFIC POSITION --

WHARRA --?!

I... I DON'T BELIEVE IT! Y-YOU WERE FAKING ALL ALONG... BUT WHY? WHY?!

-- EVEN IF IT MEANT TEMPORARILY EXPOSING MYSELF TO YOUR MASSIVE RISKS!

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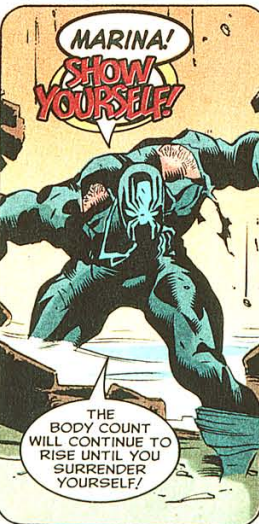
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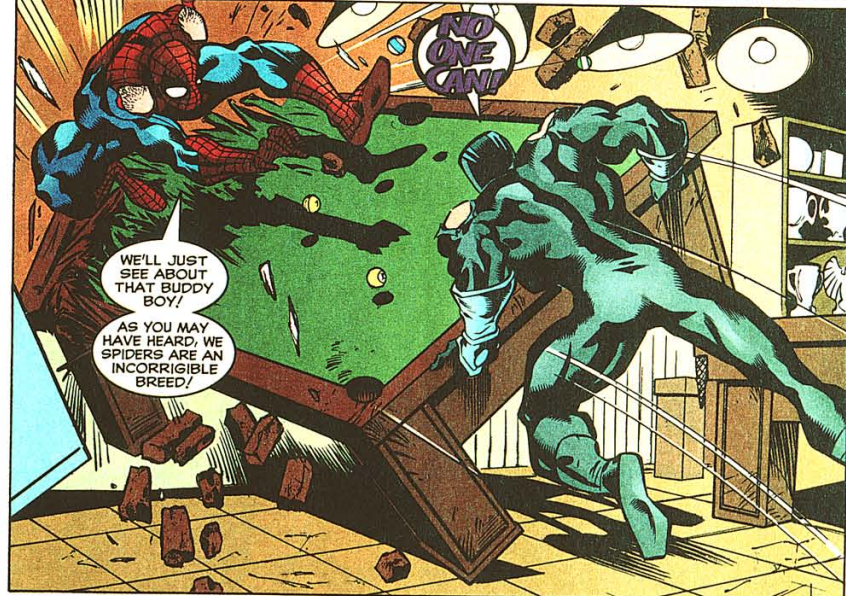
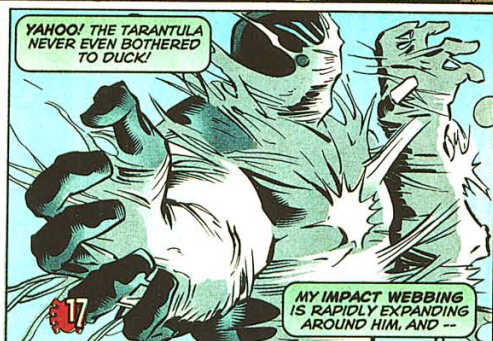
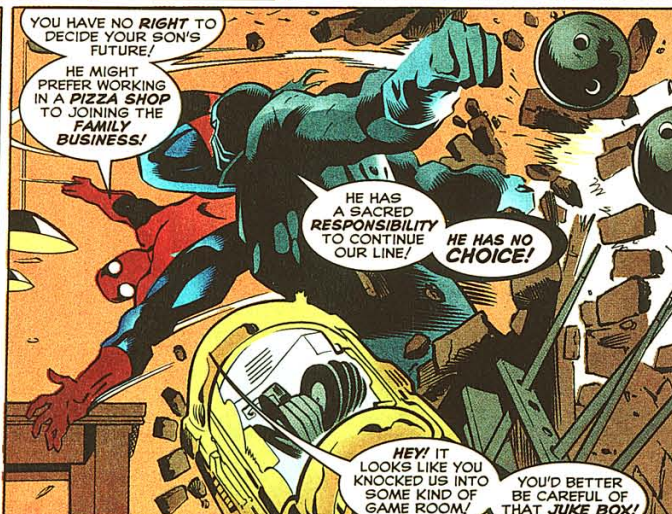
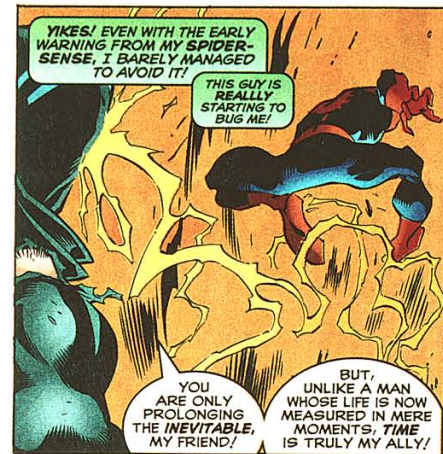
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| ☐ DDP Deadpool | ☐ MEN X-Men |
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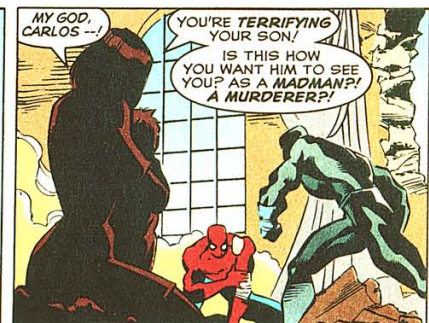
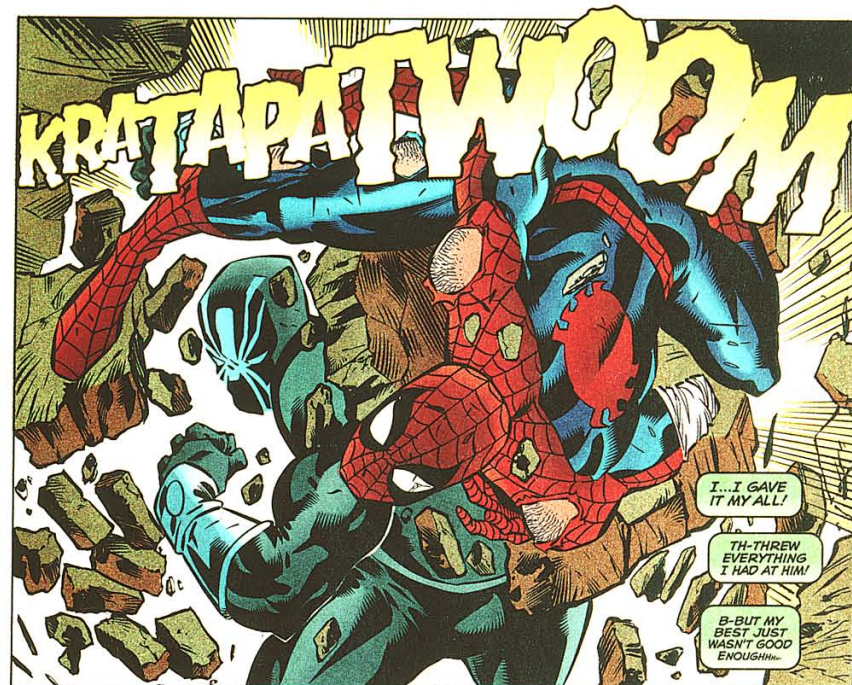
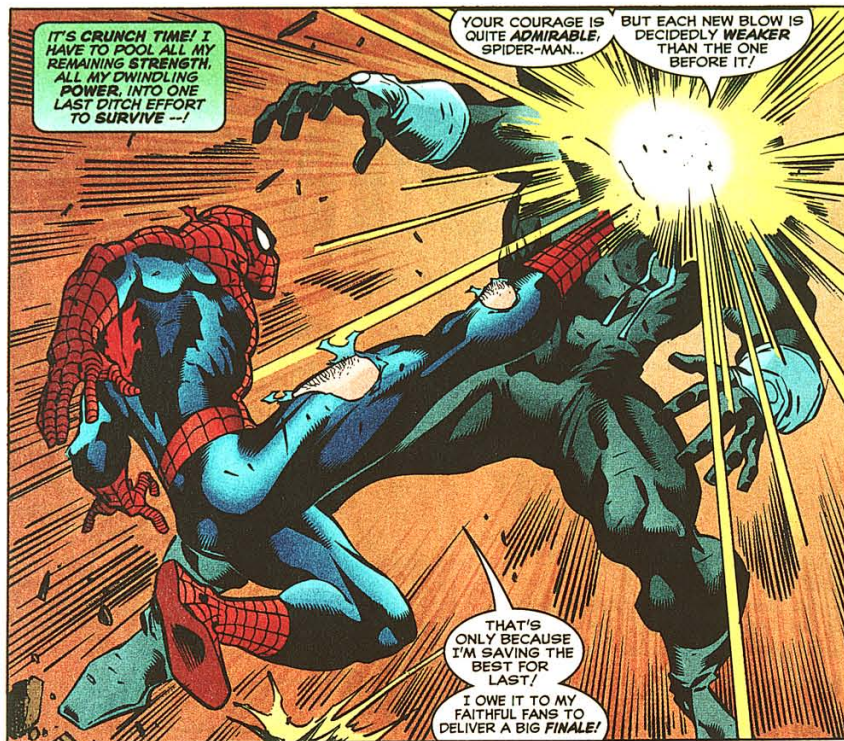
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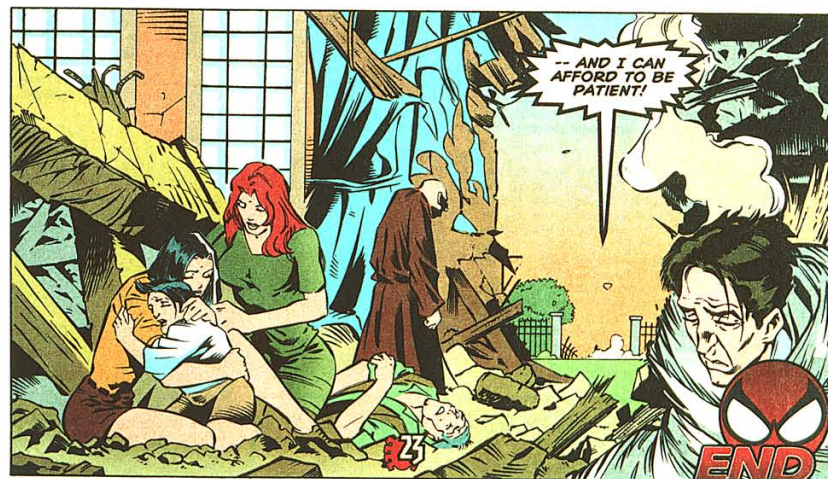
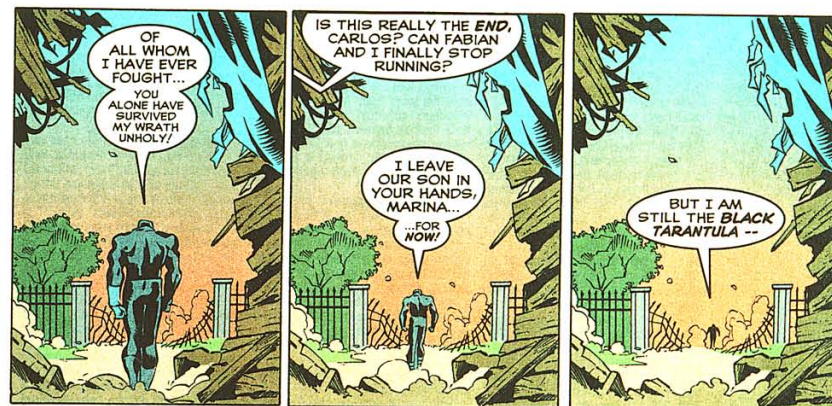
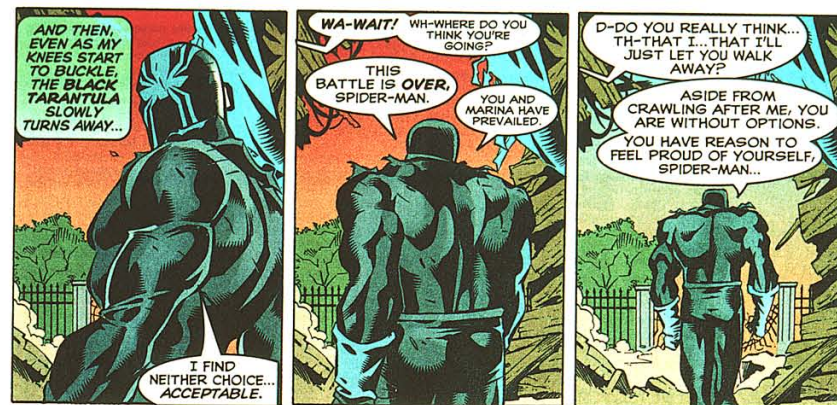
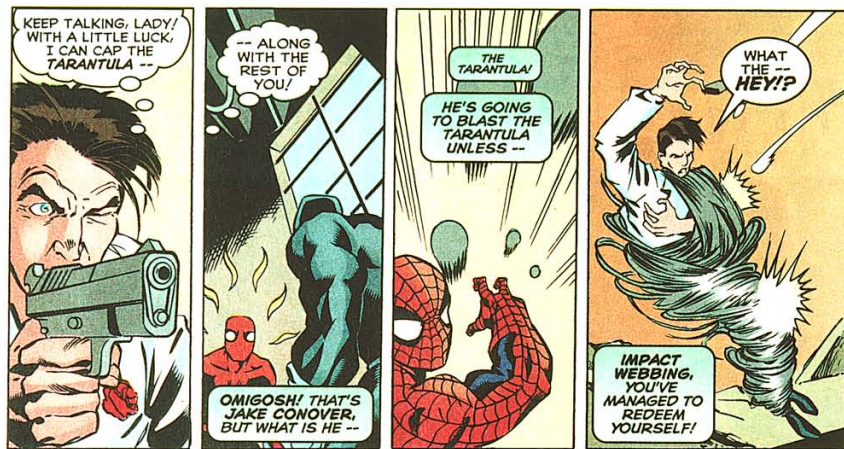


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THE SPIDEYWEB

Dear Spider's Web,

I have been reading Spidey titles since I could say, "Goo, goo, ga ga, Spidoor Mamin, buy me Mommy." (Pardon the language, but I was three; give me a break.) Anyway, I would just like to say that I haven't bought many Spidey titles for a while (my favorite comic shops keep closing down. Also, the clone storyline ticked me off. But you've heard enough about that, haven't you, guys?), but when I read issue #425, I was hooked. The Onslaught storyline upset me because killing off some of Marvel's most popular heroes and then bringing them immediately back to life (Oh, I'm sorry! They're in a different universe.) was such an obvious publicity stunt that it saddened me. Spider-Man was one of the few books I still enjoyed after Onslaught. Tom DeFalco's stories are excellent. Joe Bennett is a very good artist, although I don't enjoy his illustrations as much as I did Steve Krocco's. Okay, now let's begin with comments on the comics:

Issue #425: Wow! Explosions, massive headaches, insulation Spider costume, Electro, X-Man, and a non-stop fight to the finish. Gotta love it! And it's double-sized to boot!

Issue #426: An all-star cast of the Rose, Delilah, Carolyn Trainer (Lady Ock), Stunner, and a bunch of screwy True Believer ninjas (we're seeing a lot of them lately). Jokes, punches, kicks, painful neck injuries. I'm in Heaven!

Issue #427: Action-packed return of evil Ock! It's gettin' creepy now!

Issue #428: An annoying little brat, a campus-wide toga party, Mary Jane accusing Peter of being inflammatory (why would she think that?), the menace of the Black Tarantula (he scares me, Mommy!). Oh yeah, and some guy named Doctor Octopus is in it, too!

Issue #429: Spidey and Daredevil vs. Titania and the Absorbing Man. What more could you ask for? C'mon, tell me, huh?

I'd like to say that you make a wonderful comic and that I'm looking forward to reading it for a long time into the future. I would just like to say that from now on, try to leave dead people dead. I'm also very glad to see Peter Parker back where he belongs, as Spider-Man.

So, until Peter divorces Mary Jane for Doctor Octopus, Make Mine Marvel!
Mark Butler
150 Dalton Street
Roselle Park, NJ 07204

Why, thanks, Mark! We're blushing all over after all that praise. Thanks for the recap, though, we'd forgotten how good those issues were ourselves!

Dear Editor,

I recall a time when Spider-Man was a man named Ben Reilly and all I can say is, thank God he's not anymore. Your comics are some of the best on the market. I bought Spider-Man before the clone saga and now I am proud to say that I buy it once again. Your comics' complete U-turn is fantastic.

One complaint that I have is the absence of Aunt May and little May. Please bring back at least one of those characters someday. The way the baby was written out is not something that I've enjoyed.

The most recent issue I've read is

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #429. Even when this comic has a fill-in artist, it's still great. The thought of the Absorbing Man and Titania trying to become heroes modeled after the Thunderbolts (not realizing the true secret) was rich. What a great story idea. I hope upcoming issues will bring some stories that are up to this one's caliber.

I decided not to go for the classic listed number format, even though this is my first time writing to a comic. I was wondering if you can bring Venom back as a villain or other villains like the Hobgoblin or the Kingpin. These classic villains and even more can make Spider-Man leap back to the top of the charts where it once was. I came back after the clone saga and maybe you can gain back even more new readers.

Overall, this magazine is great. Keep up the good work. Until Uncle Ben becomes the one, true Spider-Man, Make Mine Marvel!

Adam Rottenberg
West Bloomfield, MI

Nice to hear from you, Adam! No need to worry about not using the hallowed "numbered question" format, we'll answer 'em anyway!

While there aren't any immediate plans for Venom right now, there's no telling when that guy's going to show up uninvited. And don't fret, when he does show his face, it will definitely be in a villainous capacity! Hobgoblin, eh? Well, just so happens that he will be making an appearance in SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #259, on sale in just two weeks! Hurry off to Bob's Hobbies and Collectibles!

And while you're there, be sure to reserve your copy of SPIDER-MAN: MADE MEN, on sale in June. You did say you wanted to see the Kingpin, right? Well, that's where you'll find him, as the fat man makes his move to wrest control of the New York Underworld! It's by Howard Mackie and very talented newcomer Norman Felche. Look for it in June!

Dear AMAZING Team,

A few random thoughts on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #429:

1. I seem to recall the Absorbing Man and Titania teaming against Spidey back in Tom DeFalco's first run on this book when the Mongoose made his first showy appearance in the Marvel Universe. To be honest, the whole Thunder-Girl and Lightning Bolt guy would've worked better if we hadn't seen exactly the same joke in the pages of DEADPOOL with the Great Lakes Avengers temporarily taking on the name of the Lightning Rods.

2. Although I still stand by my belief that if ever a character should have stayed dead it was Norman Osborn, I do have to admit that his malevolent manipulations are making for some very interesting storylines. I'd love to see him back in the Goblin suit a bit more regularly, however. In some senses, I guess he may feel that the Green Goblin persona has served its purpose, but I'd hate to think that now that Norman is back, we've seen the last of his costumed identity.

3. Other Norman continuity problems that need exploring are, firstly, his membership in the Legion of the Unliving in an AVENGERS ANNUAL a few years

back. He also popped up in FANTASTIC FOUR just a couple of years back as a villain who was supposedly dead in our timeline, and had been plucked from the past to battle the FF (and Tom wrote that story, to boot!), so there are some very difficult continuity issues to resolve there. The other thing I'd like to see explored involving Norman is his split personality. It's been established in the past that he has two distinct personalities: his malevolent, malicious one that we all know and hate alongside a more benevolent persona. Remember back in the old days when he would go for years as a normal and well-adjusted citizen before some catalyst would revert him back to his nastier side? An exploration of this split personality would be of great interest (perhaps in SPECTACULAR where the psychological tension is more heightened?).

4. As there was a suggestion or two this month on how the letters page could be improved, I think I'll add my thoughts as well. Isn't it about time the readers know who is answering their letters? After all, I've seen complaints from Marvel editors about letter writers who use pseudonyms, but it works both ways! We like to know who we're talking to as well as you, you know! Just a thought.

Andy Oliver
38 Sycamore Avenue
Upminster, Essex
ENGLAND RM14 2HR

Why, Andy, we feel we've been very clear on who exactly is answering your letters. It's the editorial "We," of course! But "We" are very personal and private and "We" would feel very uncomfortable if you knew too much about "Us"!

As we see the Next Issue box rapidly approaching, we realize that there's not quite enough room to answer all of your comments, so we'll just add a bit about Norman. Your reservations about Norman have certainly been no secret in these, and other, pages, Andy. And, as we've said before, we certainly take these reservations very seriously. When we finally made the fateful decision to return Norman from the Land of the Unliving, so to speak, we realized that if we were to do so, the level of stories involved had to be of the absolute highest quality, or we would really be in for some nasty letters. We're glad to see that you at least have fallen under the spell of Norman's latest reign of psychological terror.

Oh, and one last thing: You don't really think you've seen the last of Norman in the Goblin suit, do you?

NEXT ISSUE:

PETER'S BEEN THROUGH SOME VERY BIG TRANSFORMATIONS BEFORE. VAMPIRE, SIX ARMS, ETC. BUT THIS TIME IT LOOKS LIKE MR. PARKER IS TRANSFORMING INTO AN HONEST-TO-GOODNESS ARACHNID! UGH! AND TO MAKE THE MATTER EVEN MORE EMBARRASSING, THIS IS ALL COURTESY OF... THE PLANT MAN! SPIDEY IS DEFINITELY GONNA NEED SOME HELP FOR THIS ONE, BUT WHAT CAN SYNCH OF GENERATION X DO TO HELP FIND OUT IN FOUR SHORT WEEKS AS TOM DEFALCO, RALPH MACCHIO, KAYANLA, AND LAROSA GIVE YOU THE INSIDE'S EYE VIEW, A PERSPECTIVE THAT RALF IS ALL TOO FAMILIAR WITH!

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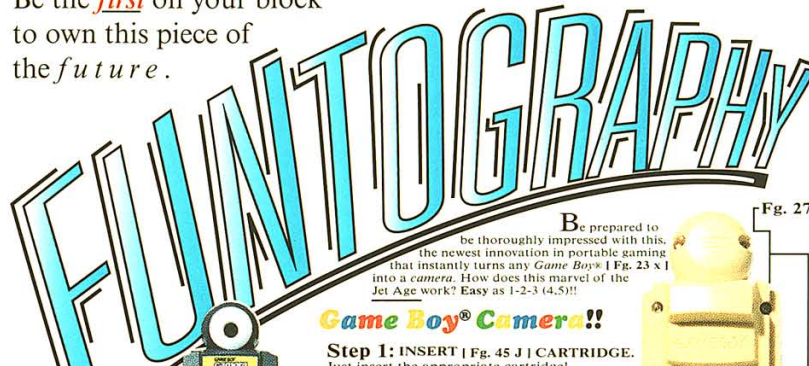


Fig. 24 A

Step 3: ATTACH PRINTER [Fig. 2]

W1. Connect your camera to the Game Boy® compact printing press [Fig. 16 S]. [Sold separately] More innovation from the makers of the Game Boy® camera.

Fig. 16 S

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Fig. 112 h

Step 5: VIEW HUMOROUS OUTCOME. [Fig. 112 h]

Fig. 2 w

Fig. 16 S

Fig. 112 h

Fig. 24 A

Fig. 24 B

Fig. 24 C

Fig. 24 D

Fig. 24 E

Fig. 24 F

Fig. 24 G

Fig. 24 H

Fig. 24 I

Fig. 24 J

Fig. 24 K

Fig. 24 L

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Fig. 112 h

Fig. 112 h

Fig. 112 h

Fig. 112 h

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Fig. 112 h

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Fig. 27 B

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Could there be magic pixies creating the images inside?

We're not talking...

"It's easy-to-do".

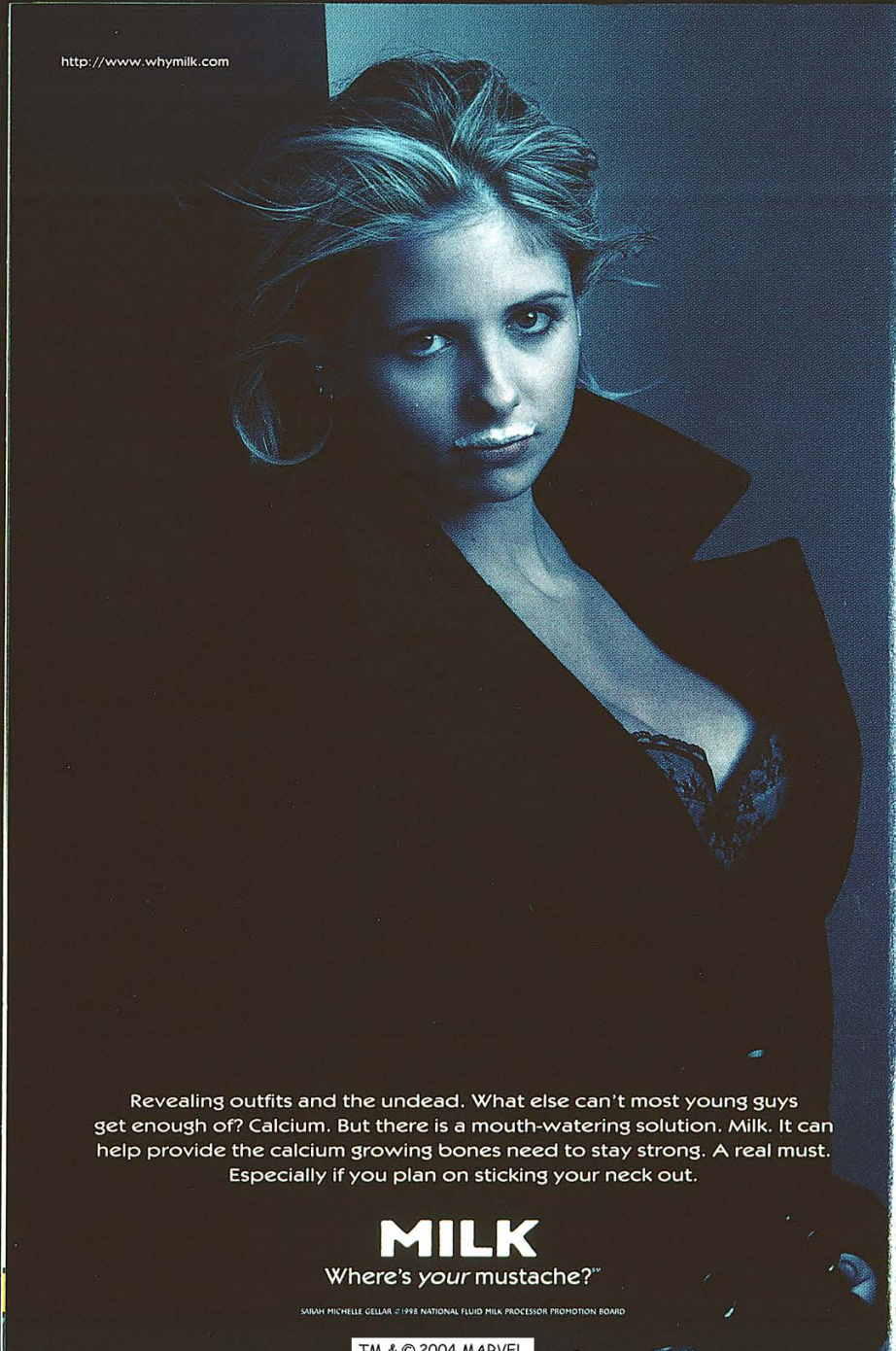
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